

American Rescue Plan Survey Results

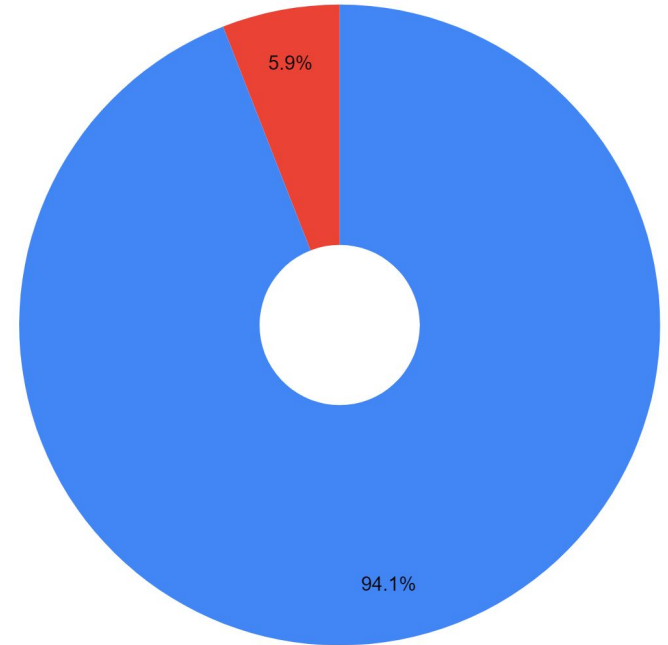
Office of Mayor Joyce Craig

March 2021 - May 2021

Survey Respondent Information

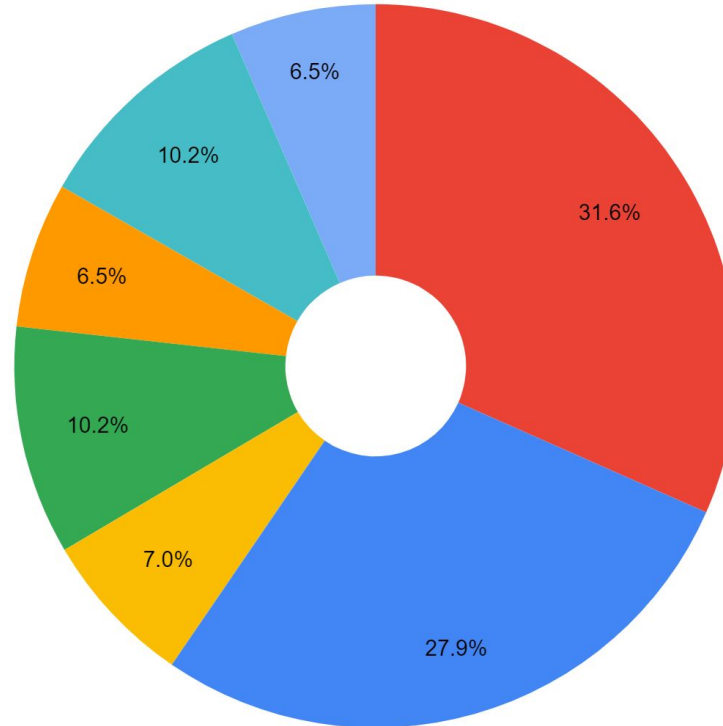
- 159 responses from March 18th to May 6th, 2021
- Survey available on the city website (manchesternh.gov) or directly (<https://bit.ly/ARP4MHT>)

• Manchester Residents
• Non-Manchester Residents



Recommendations for Projects and Opportunities

- Transportation/Infrastructure/Recreation
- Affordable Housing/Homelessness
- Financial
- Education
- Other
- Downtown/Business/Events
- Health



Transportation + Infrastructure + Recreation (32%)

"I would love to see some of these funds put to use improving our roads and traffic signals. Let's take the opportunity to add some dedicated bike lanes on Granite, fill the potholes, and speed up everyone's commutes!"

"Connecting the rail trails. I think they would help people stay as active as they were during the pandemic, alleviate traffic, promote healthy lifestyles and attract young professionals to the city."

"The Crystal Lake Beach is a hidden gem for the City of Manchester. It is one of the only urban ponds in the State of New Hampshire. In the last 25 years, much has been done to make sure the lake is healthy. City sewerage has been put in around the lake, stormwater systems have been built to filter pollutants, water quality is monitored frequently. It is a haven for wildlife -- a family of great blue herons make their home here; the hooded merganser feeds on its migration, and every once in a while a bald eagle will fish. This area could become a haven for our city's families as well if invested in - a wonderful recreational facility for our great City if updated and modernized. Crystal Lake is a place where children and families can picnic, play games, catch turtles, and swim. It already has a beautiful playground which could be enhanced with additional games for older children and families. The pavilion needs work -- the railings need to be replaced and picnic tables installed. The bathhouse needs to be updated. Investing in our families would bring out the best in Manchester."

Affordable Housing + Homelessness (28%)

“We need to address housing...both for the homeless to get on their feet (which requires more programs for support that don't require insurance) and affordable rentals for people moving to the state. There is a shortage of affordable housing which makes it very difficult to attract younger residents and harder for older folks on their own to support themselves.”

“Getting everyone more secure and affordable housing”

“Mayor Craig, the pandemic has hit our city's most vulnerable members the hardest, especially over the winter. A few million could go a long way in helping the homeless population.”

“I think it should be used to renovate and old empty building for the homeless and for homeless families.”

“Compassionate outreach to vulnerable populations, especially the homeless. Rent assistance.”

Education (10%)

“As part of a board overseeing a nonprofit early childhood education center in Manchester, we have struggled to keep it open and sustainable during the pandemic in order to serve essential workers and also to educate and engage Manchester's next generation, from infants to kindergartners. We need to treat early childhood education as infrastructure and ensure there is a pipeline of early childhood caregivers and teachers to make accessible and affordable childcare an option for young families in the city.”

“I’ll just go for it... let’s build new schools! Consolidation and new infrastructure money could lead to vastly improved facilities that would benefit the community for generations to come. Imagine a new state of the art high school, or a bunch of new elementary schools. Maybe SNHU could partner with us to build these schools, they could use them as lab schools for their teaching students. Gotta dream big, right?”

Downtown + Business + Events (10%)

“I think you should look into developing an outdoor pedestrian mall on Elm street. I'm envisioning something like the Church Street marketplace in Burlington, NH or the Commons in Ithaca, NY. It would allow restaurants to expand outdoor dining and would make it easy to hold year-round events that attract people to the area and the businesses that are there. It would also make it easier for pedestrians to navigate Elm street.”

“Small business 'beautification' grants. Around the city there are so many family owned small businesses, from restaurants to laundromats to car repair. Signage and exterior upkeep can be expensive and may be the first thing to get cut when budgets are tight. We could create a program to fund small business beautification - a new coat of paint, a new sign, new windows, etc. - whatever they need to look their best. New signage for parking in the downtown area. Many people complain about the lack of parking downtown, but really there is a surplus! I think people do not know about all the garages or side-streets where they could park. Some simple signage could fix that. For example, the sign could have the 'P' with an arrow, and an estimated walking time/distance so people know.”

Health (7%)

“We MUST -- for this pandemic and for future public health emergencies -- strengthen our public health infrastructure. Ask experts like Anna Thomas and Phil Alexakos for their ideas -- AND BACK THEM UP.”

“Nonprofits filling needs of our community's most vulnerable is important: the opioid crisis hasn't disappeared, homelessness is on the rise, children need to be protected from mental health crises related to stress of the pandemic and its remedies, and immigrants and refugees are facing uncertainty in so many areas of their lives. Good luck, and thanks for asking for input.”

“Please use the funds to help those in need of drug or alcohol treatment in some way.”

“Increase access to fresh foods for underserved community members in fresh food deserts, a Manchester Food co-op. Bring back a thriving year round Farmers Market. Help fund the Manchester Grows program. Mental Health Funding such as well-being centers and more school counselors.”

Financial (7%)

"I hope it's made public what the city does with the funds and the reasoning and data to support why that decision was made."

"As much direct assistance as possible would have the best impact I believe."

"The mayor of Manchester should give the \$44million relief money back to the taxpayers where it came from."

"I do NOT want tax cuts! There are plenty of needs in the city, for instance homelessness. Don't allow another \$3.5 million designated for Manchester School District, to go for tax cuts! Satisfy the NEEDS of the people! Thank you."

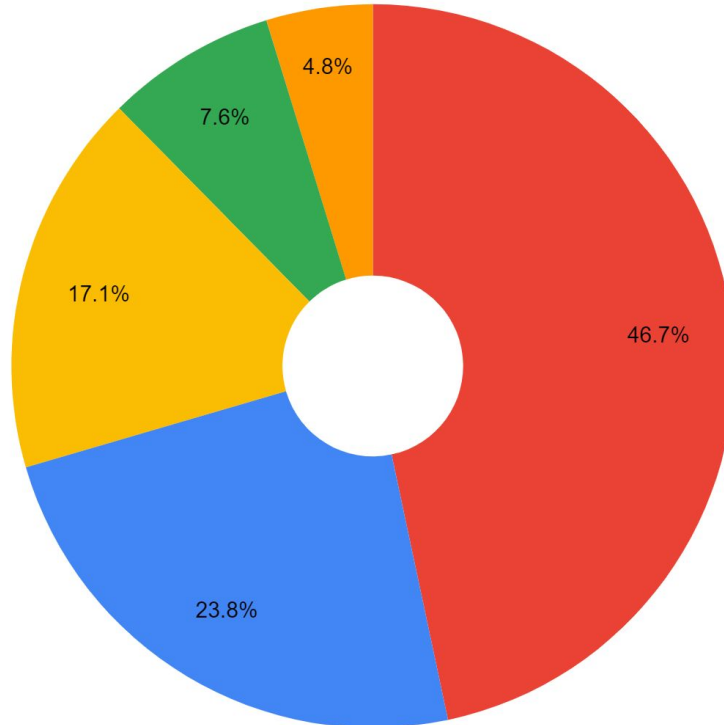
Other (7%)

“Also I’d love to see more green energy in the city. Offering loans to help homeowners install solar panels could greatly help Manchester expand solar installations and reduce our energy demands.”

“I also think the Manchester City Library and the water system should be considered for propping up.”

COVID-19's Impact

- Anxiety/Social Isolation
- Positives/Silver Linings
- Financial
- Family/Kids/Education
- Other



Negatives + Anxiety + Social Isolation (47%)

“The biggest impact like a lot of people was not being able to see loved ones. Missing a whole year of seeing my grandkids and doing fun things with them. Not being able to go out to eat, to the movies, to the beach, to see friends unless you sat outside 6 feet apart. Missing an entire year of holidays with family. Having to quarantine for two weeks during Christmas because of a possible exposure. You could see the pandemic was affecting the community also...Working parents with school aged children were forced to become teachers for their children while also working 40 hours a week. Families who lost loved ones were not able to be with them when they passed. Funerals and memorials for loved ones had to be canceled or put on hold for a year.”

“I have been sheltering in place since last March with minimal travel or social interaction due to fear of contracting the coronavirus.”

“COVID has turned everything upside down and has left a hole in the hearts of people I care about.”

Positives + Silver Linings (24%)

"It has slowed us down in a way where we value our local community and realize the dependencies we have on each other. We've learned to love our neighbors more and to support ALL the businesses and people that are working hard each day."

"My family was lucky compared to most during the pandemic. We leaned on each other for support and loved as hard as we could. There were some life-altering milestones over the past year that have made me so appreciative of the support system in my life. I was still able to get married this past October, albeit with a limited number of guests, and my husband and I are now expecting our first child."

"I rely more on outdoor activities because I don't go to the gym, movies or restaurant/bars."

"We LOVE Manchester and want to see everyone THRIVE as we restart our schools and economy!"

Financial Impact (17%)

“The financial impact was difficult due to no raises or cost of living increases. Stimulus monies provided for week to week bills with food costs and fuel (heat(electric)/gas) always on the rise.”

“My business has suffered. But I have also seen the small business community come together, in downtown especially.”

“My work at Granite United Way includes providing free income tax assistance for Manchester residents. In this tax season we have been seeing many people struggling to pay their bills and it is a real challenge to put any funds side for emergency savings. We are proud of the fact that our efforts helped Manchester residents to claim more than \$29,000 in Economic Impact (stimulus) payments that they might have otherwise missed. Still, more needs to be done.”

Family + Kids + Education (8%)

“Limited interactions with others, and limits sports for the community. Summer and fall soccer events were cancelled. Summer soccer camps and fall soccer were cancelled which greatly impacted the change for kids to exercise and socialize and for the community to show its support for each other.”

“Parenting during the pandemic with school closures and managing remote work has been the hardest aspect.”

“I had a baby on May 1, 2020. I was unable to see a lactation consultant in-person due to COVID and spent weeks struggling to feed my baby on my own. Most of our family members were unable to see and help us as planned, due to distance and some being essential workers, so after my husband went back to work when the baby was one week old (!) I relied on living with various family members who were all working full-time remotely for their help so I could get a few hours of sleep each day. I was unable to meet any other new moms in-person during my 3-month maternity leave, and when I did go back to work the new moms I had met remotely also were back at work at 12 weeks, and none of us had free time to see each other for support during the week, and on the weekend we catch up on housework and spend time with our husbands.”

Other (5%)

“Minimized bus route 11 and no music in Stark Park.”

“Moved to work from home versus office downtown on Elm, so see a lot less faces for sure. But the primary change was how to engage my volunteers safely at Valley Cemetery, and a lot of adjustments were made for that.”